

Present:

Brandy Randall, (*Chair*), Joanne Lipson-Freed (*Co-Chair*), Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Henry Aigbedo, Darrin Hanna, Anne Hranchook, John Krauss, Helen Levenson, Victoria Lucia, Daniel Llamocca Obregon, Meir Shillor, Paul Weinberg, Neil Baumgartner, Nicole Boelk

Absent: Thandi Sulé

Staff: Linda Hutcheson (*Secretary*)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- Last week Graduate School Dean Brandy Randall attended a National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM principal investigator meeting in Alabama about getting low-income students in STEM programs. Oakland University was the only non-Alabama school participating and there is money available for students to travel to Oakland. The program was formerly focused on undergraduate students but now includes graduate students.
- In the spring of each year there is a national Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week. Oakland University will participate this year to celebrate our graduate students including our medical students.
- The fourth of four candidates for Provost is scheduled to be on campus this week. Graduate Council members were encouraged to attend the Open Forum on Thursday Nov 21, 2024, if possible.
- The Graduate School office being short staffed is directly affecting enrollment in some key programs. Measures recently taken to provide some relief to staff include offering limited overtime to CTs, planning to hire student employees, posting that the office is 'Closed' to visitors from 8-9am, considering the same for from 4-5pm, and replacing a problematic department general inquiry email address with a promising newly developed system to be run through Slate.
- Brandy asked members to review the Psychology programs using the Program Review rubrics provided. Discussing them will be the first item of New Business on the agenda for the December 9, 2024, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- John Krauss noted the need to add 'talked about removing recommendations for graduate certificates' to the comments on Graduate Admissions Graduate School Policy Revision in the November 4, 2024, Graduate Council minutes.
- Helen Levenson pointed out the need to edit a comment in those minutes' Report from the Chair from 'offering a higher stipend tier and health care' to 'offering Graduate Assistants a higher stipend tier and health insurance'.

Joanne Lipson-Freed introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2024, meeting pending revisions discussed. Meir Shillor seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. **History, M.A._Graduate Program Modification:** fourth reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Darrin Hanna, Claire Rammel

Presenter(s): Sara Chapman Williams

- Proposal was previously approved pending revisions. Revisions were made and then reviewed again by department per presenter request before being returned to Graduate Council for another reading.

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve the Master of Arts in History Graduate Program Modification pending correction of course numbers in table. Anne Hranchook seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. **Advanced Social Work Practice in Behavioral Health, GC_New Graduate Certificate:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Meir Shillor, Thandi Sulé

Presenter(s): Maria Beam

- As there does not currently seem to be a market for this beyond students that are already in the Master of Social Work programs, the Council and presenter agreed that a graduate certificate format was not appropriate and that if an optional concentration with the involved courses is added to the programs, student transcripts could show a specialization in this area.
- Graduate School Assistant Dean Claire Rammel and Maria Beam will discuss how to make the involved courses a concentration within the Master of Social Work programs.

3. **School Social Work, GC_New Graduate Certificate:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Reviewers: Meir Shillor, Thandi Sulé

Presenter(s): Maria Beam

- As there does not currently seem to be a market for this beyond students that are already in the Master of Social Work programs, the Council and presenter agreed that a graduate certificate was not appropriate and that if an optional concentration with the involved courses is added to the programs, student transcripts could show a specialization in this area.
- Graduate School Assistant Dean Claire Rammel and Maria Beam will discuss on how to make the involved courses a concentration within the Master of Social Work programs.

4. **Graduate Admissions_Graduate School Policy Revision:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall

- Dean Randall and Members discussed edits needed and the desire for the policy to allow departments to meet their needs with flexibility in program admission requirements, to remove Graduate School admission policy barriers to admissions, and to continue to allow application weaknesses not adequately addressed by applicants in their Goal Statement to be further addressed by a recommender.

- Members discussed having the Graduate Admissions number of required recommenders drop from two to one with programs continuing to be able to require additional recommenders to meet the needs of their programs. For admissions applications to programs that do not consider recommendations in their admissions decisions, this change would save students, Graduate School staff and departments time and would speed admission decisions.

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve the Graduate Admissions Graduate School Policy Revision with the edits discussed. Anne Hranchook seconded. With the majority in favor, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Definition of Fully and Partially High Flex Programs_New Graduate School Policy:** second reading, debatable, amendable, and eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall, Shaun Moore, Diane Underwood

- Council discussed the challenges to international students' participation, the need for clarity of definitions for interested students and for marketing, surveys showing that students want flexibility, other universities use of High Flex, and reporting requirements to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).
- Shaun Moore will revise language in the Partially High Flex program definition to make it clear that the portion that is not High Flex is in-person and will provide that revised definition to Associate Provost Kristin Landis-Piwowar prior to UCU's November 26, 2024, meeting and to the Graduate Council for consideration at the next Graduate Council meeting.

- 2. Academic Recognition of Deceased Students_Graduate School Policy Revision:** first reading, debatable, amendable, and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Presenter(s): Brandy Randall

- Council members were in agreement that Oakland University's policy should be less rigid than it currently is.
- Dean Randall will confer with the Provost's Office to make sure that the graduate policy revision lines up with current undergraduate policy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Graduate Faculty Mentor Award Timeline**

- The Provost Office needs awardee recommendations in January.
- Anne Hranchook, Joanne Lipson-Freed, and Henry Aigbedo volunteered to review all nominees and narrow them down to a short list of candidates for the entire Council to consider.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.